

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the second paragraph of page 2 as follows:

Using microstrip technology for narrow bandpass filter design, the spacing between the resonators usually determines the amount of coupling between the resonators. As the spacing increases, the coupling decreases and, therefore, the bandwidth becomes narrower. For very-narrow band filters, the spacing between resonators can be quite substantial. Techniques have been developed in the prior art to reduce the required spacing. For example, in a lumped element type resonator environment (see Zhang, et al. U.S., Patent Application 08/706,974, which issued on August 20, 2002 as U.S. Patent No. 6,438,394, and Ye, U.S. Patent Application 09/699,783, ~~Petition to Revoke Granted September 29, 2006~~ which issued on October 14, 2008 as U.S. Patent No. 7,437,187); and in a distributed element type resonator environment (see Tsuzuki, et. al., U.S. Provisional Application 60/298,339), all assigned to the assignee of the current invention. These techniques have been shown to be successful in effectively reducing the spacing between resonators for very-narrow band filters in the respective environments. However, the techniques may not be effective (using the same structure), when the required bandwidth of the filter becomes large. Where a broader bandwidth is desired, closer spacing between resonators is required. In some cases, the spacing may become too small from manufacturability point of view, i.e., lithography, sensitivity, yield, etc.